

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for determining communication rates, comprising the steps of:
identifying a set of possible communication rates based on an amount of transmit power available for communications; and
identifying a communication rate based on a received signal quality.
2. (Original) A method for determining communication rates, comprising the steps of:
identifying a set of possible communication rates based on a number of available communication channels; and
identifying a communication rate based on a received signal quality.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the communication channels are defined by Walsh codes.
4. (Original) A method for determining communication rates, comprising the steps of:
identifying a set of possible communication rates based on an amount of transmit power available for communications and a number of available communication channels; and
identifying a communication rate based on a received signal quality.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the communication channels are defined by Walsh codes.

6. (New) A method for determining communication rates at a mobile station communicating with a base station, the method comprising:

identifying a set of possible communication rates based on an amount of transmit power available for communications at said mobile station; and

identifying a communication rate based on a received signal quality at said mobile station.

7. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising:

receiving information about the amount of transmit power available from said base station at said mobile station.

8. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising:

receiving information about a number of available communication channels from said base station at said mobile station.

9. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 6, wherein identifying a communication rate further comprising:

selecting a standardized data rate from a subset of standardized data rates of a plurality of subsets of a larger set of standardized data rates at said mobile station.

10. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 9, further comprising:

communicating the standardized data rate selection to said base station using at least one less bit than required to identify a data rate within said plurality of subsets of a larger set of standardized data rates.

11. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 6, wherein identifying a communication rate further comprising:

identifying at said mobile station a subset of standardized data rates; and

receiving information about the amount of transmit power available and one or more available Walsh codes on a forward link signaling channel from said base station at said mobile station.

12. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising:

selecting in a handoff situation, a particular base station from a multiplicity of base stations to receive the handoff based on a base station that provides a highest overall data rate.

13. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 12, further comprising:

receiving information about an available transmit power and a number of available orthogonal codes from each of the candidate handoff base stations of said multiplicity of base stations a corresponding forward link signaling channel of each base station at said mobile station.

14. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 13, further comprising:

measuring a signal quality associated with each of the candidate handoff base stations.

15. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 14, further comprising:

identifying a group of data rates associated with each of the candidate handoff base stations based on the available transmit power information and the number of available orthogonal codes information.

16. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 15, further comprising:
measuring a carrier to interference ratio for each of the candidate handoff base stations;
and
identifying a standardized data rate within each group of data rates for each of the
candidate handoff base stations based on the measured carrier to interference ratios of the
candidate handoff base stations.
17. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising:
requesting a handoff to the particular base station that provides the highest overall data
rate.
18. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising:
determining a level of an available transmit power and a number of available Walsh
codes across an active set of cells.
19. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 18, further comprising:
adapting a modulation and coding rate based on the level of the available transmit power
and the number of available Walsh codes indicated at each cell of said active set of cells.
20. (New) A method, as set forth in Claim 19, further comprising:
selecting a cell at said mobile station by maximizing the modulation and coding rate
supportable by each cell of said active set of cells.